

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the indication of the allowability of the subject matter of Claims 8-21 as set forth on page 6 of the Office Action.

In response to the objection to the specification, Applicants submit a substitute specification (a marked-up and clean version) incorporating the amendments requested by the Examiner on pages 3-5 of the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

In response to the objection to Claims 8-21 as set forth on page 6 of the Office Action, Claims 8 and 9 have been amended. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Applicants note the Examiner's statement that references DE 19813432 and EP 556542, cited in the International Search Report and listed on the previously submitted Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) (copy enclosed), have not been provided. Although Applicants believe the International Searching Authority provided copies of these references to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Applicants enclose copies of these two references.

The Examiner also states that a concise explanation of reference DE 196 05 920 has not been provided. As stated in the IDS, a concise explanation of this reference (reference AD on Form PTO/SB/08a) is given in the Background and Summary of the Invention of the present application, see paragraph [0008]. In

view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the IDS complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and 1.98.

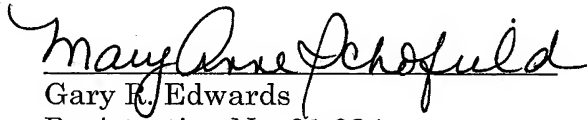
In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.56363US).

Respectfully submitted,

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